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'CATASTROPHIC'

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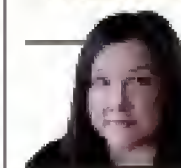


The overflowing Assiniboine River near the 18th Street Bridge in Brandon on May 11, 2011. Sandy Bay First Nation says it is still struggling to pay for the remediation of buildings hit by that year's floodwaters. DAVID LIPNOWSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Don't put those shovels away

WEATHER

Winter storm to hit western Manitoba



Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

It seems Mother Nature isn't quite done with serving up winter just yet.

As many Winnipeggers basked in a sunny 6 C on Sunday, Environment Canada issued a special weather statement warning of a storm system churning over the western U.S. that will impact southeast Saskatchewan and Manitoba beginning Monday that could last up to two days.

Snowfall totals will range from five cm to 30 cm or more, depending where the snow decides to fall. Winds are also expected to whip up as well, creating blowing snow and poor visibility in open areas.

There's still some uncertainty on the exact track and intensity of this system, which will have an impact on precipitation type and overall snowfall amounts. But Environment Canada sug-

gests this will be a "high impact storm" for many areas.

For Winnipeg, Environment Canada meteorologist Dan Fulton said the weather system will deliver rain first thing Monday morning.

"Then, as the temperature drops with the cold front moving in, the showers will turn to snow," Fulton said. "The strong westerly winds accompanying the snow will be the real problem."

A City of Winnipeg spokesperson said they are monitoring Environment Canada forecasts and are in a "ready to serve" position.

"Motorists should stay well back from snow-clearing and sanding equipment. We also remind motorists to drive to conditions and to allow for extra travel time," Michelle Finley said in an email statement.

Any significant amounts of snow could also have a negative impact on the already fragile flood situation once the spring melt is underway.

The public is being asked to monitor alerts and forecasts issued by Environment Canada. To report severe weather, send an email to ec.storm.ec@canada.ca or tweet reports to #MBStorm.

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'We are now the beacon of hope'

IMMIGRATION

Cabinet to map out how to deal with illegal border-crossers

Federal cabinet ministers are set for an in-depth discussion this week of the practical and political pressures being placed on the Liberal government by a rising number of asylum seekers in Canada.

Border security, RCMP and immigration officials have been running scenarios to prepare for the possibility that a relative winter trickle of illegal immigration into Canada could turn into a spring flood.

The results of their table-top exercises will help form options being put before cabinet Tuesday, The Canadian Press has learned.

Officials are also studying links between distinct groups of border-crossers that might belie the common notion they're all being pushed into Canada by the volatile U.S. political climate.

Two government officials confirmed to The Canadian Press that many of the people coming into Quebec hold American visas issued at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Interviews revealed the visas were obtained to use the U.S. as a transit point get to Canada and claim asylum — plans set in motion long before the U.S. election in November, the officials said, neither of whom were authorized to publicly discuss the issue.

But it is the pictures of RCMP officers hoisting small children above snow-covered fields along the Canada-U.S. frontier that have drawn global attention and placed political pressure on the Trudeau government from all sides.

The Opposition Conservatives are demanding a crack-down, and want those crossing illegally charged with crimes, something the government notes cannot happen until asylum claims are heard.

The fact those claims are being fed into a clogged system has others urging the Liberals to put more resources into the refugee-determination process and the agencies that support newcomers.

"We are the endpoint," said



Migrants from Somalia cross into Canada from the U.S. by walking down a train track into the town of Emerson on Feb. 26. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Chris Friesen, director of settlement services for the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia.

The Immigration and Refugee Board reported in its last quarterly financial document that in the first nine months of 2016-17, there was a 40-per-cent increase in new claims compared to the same period the previous year.

Statistics provided to The Canadian Press show claim levels generally began rising in Canada before U.S. President Donald Trump took office. In fact, the increase seems to have begun just as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took power.

In October 2015, the month of the last federal election, 1,519 claims were lodged in Canada. The next month, when the Trudeau Liberals took of-

fice, there were 1,647 and — with the exception of two months in 2016 — they have been rising since.

Trump is pushing people into Canada, but the Trudeau government's repeated messaging on welcoming diversity and immigration is a pretty strong pull factor, Friesen said. "We are now the beacon of hope for desperate refugees."

In B.C., there has been a 60-per-cent increase in the number of refugee claimants in the last 12 months compared to the previous one-year period. Most are Iraqi Kurds and Afghans, and there were

also 18 undocumented Latin Americans from Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela who recently crossed the Canada-U.S. border, immigration agencies said.

The number of Mexican claimants is also starting to rise in B.C., following the end of a requirement for Mexican citizens to have a visa to enter Canada. During the last three months, there were 29 refugee claimants from Mexico, the agencies reported, compared to 30 who arrived between December 2015 and November 2016.

The Immigration and Refugee board is already adjusting

to deal with the bigger numbers, but cabinet will consider giving it more resources.

Ministers will also consider whether there is room to alter the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S. The agreement says a refugee claimant must apply for asylum in whichever of the two countries they arrive first — unless they qualify for an exception.

It is being singled out as the reason people are avoiding official border stations and crossing into Canada illegally, and there are calls for Ottawa to suspend the agreement.

Cabinet's decision could depend on the next iteration of Trump's executive order laying out a temporary ban on immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries.

The current order has been challenged by the courts and Trump is expected to release a revised version soon.

Not much can be done to stop the border-crossers, said Ward Elcock, who advised the former Conservative government on illegal migration after years running Canada's spy agency.

Canada must keep talking to the Americans to find the source of the problem, but the reality is the numbers crossing into Canada remain a fraction of what countries in Europe are seeing, he said.

Still, no matter how many enter illegally, some voices will try to make it a political issue.

"It is seen as, you didn't control the flow of people into the country," Elcock said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



It is seen as, you didn't control the flow of people into the country.

Ward Elcock

SILOAM MISSION

Heritage label up for debate



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The building that houses Winnipeg's largest homeless shelter could soon be under heritage protection after the debate returns to city hall this week.

On Tuesday, the planning, property and development committee will decide whether to add 300 Princess St., home of Siloam Mission, to the city's list of historical resources.

The well-known shelter gives refuge to hundreds of street-involved residents each day and is planning to undergo a multi-million dollar expansion, which would increase the inventory of beds and dining seats.

In late 2015, the mission responded to a city notice that the building had been selected for a heritage designation.

"We are concerned that designating this building as a heritage building would make the cost of the project untenable," read a form sent from the mission to the city.

A civic heritage planner then reviewed the mission's proposal and found the renovations compatible with the desire to protect the Princess Street warehouse, built in 1911, and some of its historical features.

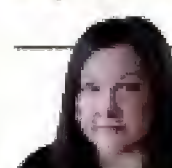
When reached for comment Friday, the mission's communications manager said staff would speak after next week's meeting. The mission had initially planned for a \$30.5 million redevelopment that would have added 160 more beds.

By March 2016, shelter staff informed the city that due to problems securing funding from the province, the project was being scaled back, bringing down the number of new beds from 160 to 60 and overall price tag to around \$15 million.

Wolseley bookstore cafe gets grease trap donation

BUSINESS

Equipment installed March 2 was provided by local agency



Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

The owner of a Wolseley bookstore and coffee shop can now serve food on regular plates, thanks to a recent grease trap donation.

For months, Bill Fugler had been serving food to his patrons at the Neighbourhood Bookstore and Cafe using disposable plates, cups and utensils.

That followed a seven-year battle against city hall, which ended in September 2016 after Fugler was given permission to

operate his Westminster Avenue business without a grease trap. However, he could only do so if he didn't use anything that required washing.

That's because he refused to install a grease trap. Under the city's sewer bylaw, all food service establishments must have one in order to prevent sewer backups.

Recently, however, Fugler received good news that Tom Beggs Agencies was donating the grease trap he needed. The equipment was installed March 2.

The city still needs to approve the grease trap. Once that happens, Fugler can ditch having to use the disposable serving ware.

Fugler's argument all along has been that he didn't need one because his food is not made on-site, which means there's no fat involved.

"First, we couldn't afford it," he explains on his Facebook page to someone who asked why he

7

Fugler fought with the city for seven years before he was finally allowed to serve food using disposable kitchenware.

doesn't feel he needs to comply with the bylaw. "Second, according to every professional, plumber, cook and even the inspector who came by, 'You don't actually need this.' Third, the city regularly hands out exemptions to places that actually cook greasy food and serve it on plates."

Fugler had recently tried to have the condition of using throw-away dishes overturned, citing it was creating more garbage and, as a business located in Winnipeg's "granola belt," that did not feel right. His request was denied.



Bill Fugler, owner of the Neighbourhood Bookstore and Cafe, plans to serve his patrons food using non-disposable cutlery and plates once his grease trap is approved. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

Faces of Winnipeg by David Lipnowski



Hue Nguyen is a recognizable face in the downtown area. He has been running his own shoe and leather repair shop for 35 years in several different downtown locations around the Graham Avenue mall area. At the age of 15 in his home country of Vietnam, his grandfather wanted him to become a tailor like himself, but Hue enjoyed making soles for shoes, and working with leather. Hue came to Canada in 1982, and has been working extremely hard six days a week. He's proud to have been recognized among large corporations by the Downtown Winnipeg Biz a few years ago, and displays the plaque in

the front window of his store. When not working on shoes or leather, Hue is also into photography. He specifically he enjoys portraits.

Fun fact: Hue's favourite movie is Titanic.

Faces of Winnipeg This is a weekly Metro series appearing in every Monday's edition. In 2013, local photographer David Lipnowski launched his art project, A Portrait a Day, in which he captured everyday Winnipeggers on the city's streets. You could say this series is an extension of that exhibit.

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TRANSIT SAFETY

Passengers take axe, brass knuckles from man on bus

An incident where police say passengers on a Winnipeg bus disarmed a man with an axe and brass knuckles has intensified calls for transit safety in the city.

There has been concern about safety on Winnipeg buses since last month's fatal stabbing of a city bus driver.

Police say passengers on Friday night took the items away from the 22-year-old man without incident and that they and the driver then escorted the man off the bus.

He was arrested a short time later on the sidewalk.

John Callahan with the union that represents transit drivers says the incident shows there isn't time to wait months for the results of a safety review ordered after driver Irvine Jubal Fraser was killed Feb. 14 when he tried to get a passenger off his bus.

Dave Wardrop, Winnipeg's chief transportation officer, said earlier this week the department doesn't have the staff to make a significant change at this point.

Callahan has been calling for fare inspection to be taken out of the hands of drivers, noting that two-thirds of driver assaults are over unpaid fares.

"These types of incidents have been ongoing, but obviously now people are paying a lot more attention, including our operators," said Callahan, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505.

"I say there's things that we can do in the interim that can be addressed a lot more quickly."

Const. Rob Carver, a police spokesman, said Friday's incident never became violent. He said the man never brandished



Police at the scene of a fatal stabbing of a bus driver at the University of Manitoba last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

the axe, and while it appears he was wearing the brass knuckles, the passengers were still able to get them from him without a fight or a struggle.

The man faces two charges of possession of a weapon and two charges of breaching a recognizance.

"In one sense it was a fairly low-key thing, these passengers see something that's disturbing, they kind of step up and the bus drivers get this guy off the bus," Carver said.

"The more concerning part is we had a tragedy involving a bus operator some weeks back, and certainly the focus has been on transit safety for the last little while."

Fraser was at the end of his route at the University of Manitoba at around 2 a.m. and was

trying to get a sleeping passenger to leave when he was killed.

A suspect, Brian Kyle Thomas, 22, has been charged with second-degree murder, possession of a weapon and breach of probation.

The report from the safety investigation prompted by Fraser's death isn't due for three months.

Callahan noted the city has added mobile inspectors at night but needs to add more of them. He has also said that dedicated transit police could mediate disputes.

He said drivers are sympathetic to riders who cannot afford to pay, but says some repeat offenders are abusing the system.

"We're getting people who are not paying fares, drinking on the bus. It's a party on wheels," he said. "Right now, you can't keep up with it. There's no consequence."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sandy Bay sues over 2011 flood

COMMUNITY

First Nation says it's still fixing damage from diversion



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A Manitoba First Nation community is taking the provincial and federal governments to court, alleging "catastrophic" losses as a result of flood diversion in 2011.

On Feb. 28, 2017, Sandy Bay First Nation filed a statement of claim against Manitoba and Canada's attorneys general at the provincial Court of Queen's Bench, seeking unspecified payment in damages.

The statement outlines how the community, situated in a low-lying region along the western shore of Lake Manitoba, is still repairing the damages caused by flooding in 2011.

That spring, severe flooding overtook the banks of the Assiniboine River and in order to protect regions of southern Manitoba, the province sent flooded waters through the Portage Diversion into Lake Manitoba.

"The known side effects of this decision taken by Manitoba would be to flood the reserve lands, traditional lands and other lands and thereby to destroy the property of, and to devastate the lives of people and communities along Lake Manitoba," the statement of claim reads.

It explains how both levels of government are liable to pay for the losses, which range from millions in structural damage to the emotional distress experienced by community members who were evacuated and displaced.

Chief Lance Roulette said all evacuated community members have returned home while

living in overcrowded, rat- and bug-infested homes.

Roulette said the decision to take legal action stems from an outstanding \$1.4 million he says the community is owed in recovery money, also mentioned in the claim.

Besides structural damage, the claim outlines how reserve lands became saturated as a result of the flooding, and clay and sediments carried from the diversion flood impacted fish populations in Lake Manitoba, interfering with the First Nation's treaty rights.

As of Friday, a provincial spokesperson declined comment, saying no statement of claim has been received, while

a spokesperson for the federal justice ministry didn't provide a response by press deadline.

According to the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Sandy Bay was one of 18 First

Nation communities to have people evacuated during the 2011 flood.

As of Jan. 17, the department said 2,016 residents remain evacuated, with 1,900 from First Nations around Lake St. Martin.



It's affected a lot of our elderly and people who have other health problems.

Chief Lance Roulette

"It's affected a lot of our elderly and people who have other health problems," he said in a recent interview.

The First Nation was in the headlines last year for issues around housing after a video surfaced that showed residents



Up to 125 homes were damaged and many now have black mould and fungus as a result of the Assiniboine River flood diversion in 2011, Chief Lance Roulette estimates. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"We're getting people who are not paying fares, drinking on the bus. It's a party on wheels. John Callahan



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Passenger sends thanks for support

HALIFAX TAXI VERDICT

Woman at centre of cab driver case speaks of shock



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

When she can't sleep at night, the passenger at the centre of the Halifax taxi sexual assault acquittal said she opens her phone to read comments from hundreds of strangers, their support like a "blanket" of protection.

Since Judge Gregory Lenehan declared Bassam Al-Rawi not guilty last week, his words like "clearly, a drunk can consent," and the case evidence have sparked a national outcry, official complaints to the Chief Justice, and future protests.

"The kind of terms that (Lenehan) used and the statements that he made, are making people question that credibility. Kind of like how they were supposed to be questioning my credibility," said the

If this was a man, do you think that (Lenehan) would be making those comments at him? I don't believe so.

The passenger in taxi case

woman in an interview, whose identity is protected by a publication ban.

She spoke to Metro on the weekend.

"We need to believe beyond a reasonable doubt you were making a fair decision here, and I don't think that people felt that way."

The passenger, a woman in her 20s, said she's seen many assume the case began with her complaint.

In fact, she said police pressed charges after an officer

found her drunk, unconscious and partially naked in the cab.

It was the Crown that chose to prosecute Al-Rawi. Her only involvement was being called to testify, where she said she could remember nothing about the incident. A forensic analyst determined the woman's blood-alcohol level was as high as 241 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood - about three times the legal limit.

Until the verdict she only hoped the judge would listen to testimony, examine the evi-

dence, and come up with a "fair decision," she said, understanding few sexual assault cases end in conviction.

But last Thursday, the woman walked into work and first read about the evidence in a Metro issue, as well as Lenehan's comments that the Crown had failed to prove she did not consent to sexual activity.

"That was definitely when the flames came up and I thought 'What? This is your reason?' I was shocked," she

said, shaking her head.

Lenehan's phrase that "clearly, a drunk can consent" really hit her, the woman said, since the situation may be "clear" to Lenehan "but to the rest of the world you can't really speak to that."

After reading it, she said she felt "completely stripped naked," and as if everyone was looking at her. It's been an especially odd, "out-of-body" feeling to have friends and co-workers who don't know she was the passenger bring it up,

she said. But online comments supporting her, and calling for a review into Lenehan's judgment, have been very comforting when she's unable to sleep at night, she said.

"It makes me feel better. It's like the city, especially women in the city but a lot of men too, have just been kind of forming this blanket around me like 'We're not going to stand by this,'" she said.

"If people weren't ... making their voices heard I think that verdict and all of that would have just been so much worse because it would've just felt like 'Wow, the system's broken and nobody's here to fix it.'"

She's glad an official complaint has been made to the Chief Justice about Lenehan's judgment, she said, and no matter what happens "as far as sexual assault cases go, specifically, he should have no part in those anymore."

The woman said it's up to the Crown to appeal the case, but if she's again called to testify she will not only because it's her legal duty, but because of "all these people rallying around. For my part I have to kind of be the voice behind that as well."

Clean-up underway after bio diesel spills at B.C. fish farm

The leader of a First Nation off the north coast of Vancouver Island says he's worried about the impact a fuel spill at a nearby fish farm will have on his community's food source.

Bob Chamberlin, elected chief councillor Kwikwasat'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation, said the area is critical for clam digging,

which is a major food source to the community.

"When you look at it, I think, 'Good golly.' It's going to have an impact on our traditional food source. And it's going to have a significant impact on the environment," he said.

The federal fisheries department said the coast guard

received a report early Sunday morning about a spill from a fuel tank at an Atlantic salmon aquaculture site in Echo Bay, about 70 kilometres east of Port Hardy.

The statement said an estimated 900 to 1,000 litres of bio diesel overflowed into the water when a fuel pump was left on

overnight.

The company that owns the site, Cermaq Canada, issued a statement that said records show that up to 1,500 litres was spilled.

Staff at the fish farm put out absorbent pads to soak up the fuel, and most of the spill is contained in the fish pens, but Cermaq said the fish are show-

ing "normal behaviour."

However Chamberlin said video footage taken from a helicopter above the spill Sunday shows fuel has leaked well beyond the confines of the farm.

The community has long been opposed to fish farms in the area because they were concerned about how they would affect

the environment and now their fears have been realized, he said.

"To have, either through a lack of training or a lack of diligence on the farm, to have an accident such as this on the farm, it's utterly unacceptable. And there needs to be a very high level of accountability here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WHITE HOUSE

Denial and discord follow wiretap claim

President Donald Trump turned to Congress on Sunday to find evidence to support his claim that Barack Obama had Trump's telephones tapped during the election. Obama's intelligence chief said no such action was ever carried out, and a U.S. official said the FBI has asked the Justice Department to dispute the allegation.

Republican leaders of Con-

gress appeared willing to honour the president's request but reports say FBI Director James Comey has argued that the claim is false and has to be corrected. Trump claimed in a series of tweets without evidence Saturday that his predecessor had tried to undermine him by tapping the telephones at Trump Tower.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENSION

North Korea fires missiles into ocean

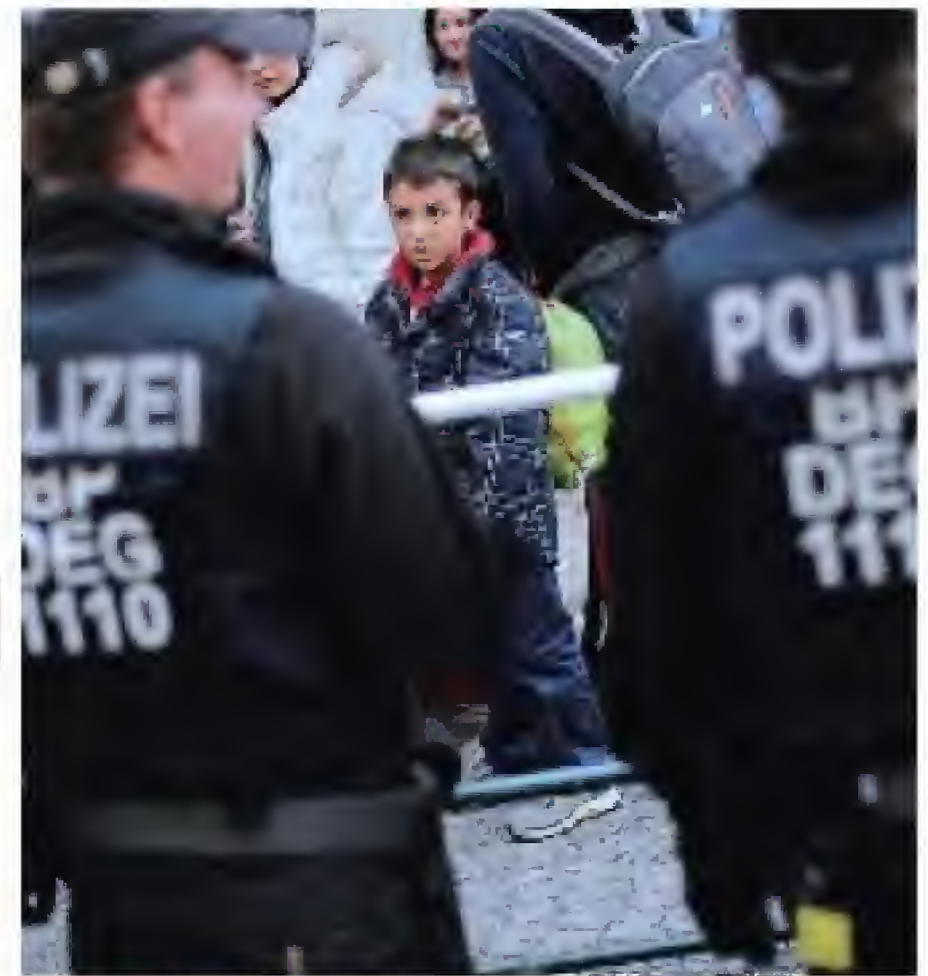
North Korea on Monday fired "several" banned ballistic missiles that flew about 1,000 kilometres into waters off its east coast, South Korea's military said, an apparent reaction to huge military drills by Washington and Seoul that Pyongyang insists are an invasion rehearsal.

It was not clear what type of missile was fired or the exact number; Pyongyang has staged a

series of missile test-launches of various ranges in recent months. The ramped-up tests come as leader Kim Jong Un pushes for a nuclear and missile program that can deter what he calls U.S. and South Korean hostility toward the North.

Seoul and Washington call their military drills on the Korean Peninsula defensive and routine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



POLITICS GERMANY ALMOST TURNED BACK REFUGEES IN 2015: REPORT A young boy looks at police is pulled out of a train along with other refugees by police in southern Germany in 2015. A German newspaper reports that the government planned to close the border with Austria and turn back asylum-seekers in September 2015, but nixed the plan at the last minute. The paper reported Sunday. The interior ministry said it could "neither confirm nor deny" the report. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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President is 'confusing' on gay rights

EQUALITY

Advocates worried Trump isn't the one making policies

Before same-sex marriage was legal anywhere in America, a gay activist in Florida twice brought a date to the Mar-a-Lago club. Each time, Rand Hoch and his guest were greeted by the smiling face of Donald Trump.

"Great eye contact. Firm handshake. The same way with everybody who came in," Hoch, founder and president of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, recalled. "There was no difference at all with my dates and me and the people in back of me or in front of me. He's out there, he's personable, and there's no way he's going to treat anybody differently."

Never before has the leader of the Republican Party shown as much public comfort with gay people as this one has. Trump has attended gay weddings, donated to gay causes, and welcomed gay couples as Mar-a-Lago members when they

were still shunned by other Florida clubs.

Now he is president, and much of the LGBTQ community is apprehensive.

"I don't think he is making policy. I think he's surrounded himself with some horrible people when it comes to LGBTQ issues, they're the ones that are making policy, and he's going to sign whatever Steve Bannon puts in front of him," said Hoch. "It's not like there's anybody in the official administration who's an advocate of treating LGBTQ people the way we treat every other American."

Trump's vice-president, Christian conservative Mike Pence, approved an Indiana law that permitted businesses to cite "religious freedom" to defend against claims of anti-gay discrimination. Bannon, his chief strategist, ran a website that published anti-gay articles. Most notably, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has a long record of fierce opposition to LGBTQ rights.

The six-week-old administration has sent mixed signals so far, alternately heartening and disquieting LGBTQ advocates.

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Trump revising his Muslim travel ban

POLITICS

Official says new order aims to overcome legal challenges

President Donald Trump is preparing to sign a revised executive order temporarily barring the entry of people from certain Muslim-majority countries and halting the nation's refugee program.

A White House official says plans to roll out the order are on track for Monday. The official insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the order ahead of the official announcement.

The new order has been in the works since shortly after a federal court blocked Trump's initial effort, but the administration has repeatedly pushed back the signing.

Trump administration officials have said the new order aims to overcome the legal challenges to the first. Its goal will be the



President Donald Trump signs an executive order in the Oval Office in January. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

same: keep would-be terrorists out of the United States while the government reviews the vetting system for refugees and visa applicants from certain parts of the world.

Trump's original orders temporarily blocked citizens of Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria and Libya from coming to the United States and put on hold the U.S. refugee program.

The revised order is expected to remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, following pressure from the Pentagon and State Department, which

had urged the White House to reconsider, given Iraq's key role in fighting the Islamic State group.

The new order is also expected to make other changes, including no longer singling out Syrian refugees for an indefinite ban and making clear that all existing visas will be honoured.

Trump signed his original executive order in late January, sparking confusion and anger as travellers were detained at U.S. airports and barred from boarding flights at foreign airports.

The signing is expected to spark a new round of lawsuits and outrage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

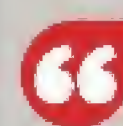
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THE QUESTION

How do you respond to baseless statements about newcomers causing spikes in violent crime?

Dear Ellen,

In old Toronto, American visitors would comment on the good manners of the city's burghers and their clean streets. Then Pierre Trudeau introduced an open-door immigrant policy that encouraged tens of thousands of uneducated, poverty-stricken, and culturally alien newcomers to our major cities. His policy was meant to lessen Canada's traditional bond to the U.K., and create a large voting base that would be indebted to the Liberal party. Toronto is now home to hundreds of thousands of Third World immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and illegals who have formed ghettos in an effort to keep their culture alive and not integrate. Unfortunately, this often includes the worst elements of their previous cultures, hence the unprecedented increase in violent crime. So don't expect Canadian manners and morals from this group. The most we can expect is that our police can get on top of the crime wave and make our streets safer.

Derek Holloway, Etobicoke

Dear Derek,

According to Bob Plamondon's 2013 book, *The Truth About Trudeau*, the number of immigrants admitted annually declined from 183,974 in 1968 when PET took office to 90,000 by 1984, when he left for good. During the Progressive Conservatives' Mulroney years, it escalated to 250,000 by 1993. Today, over half the population of Toronto was

The facts of the case aren't the point here. It's how you have perceived them.

born outside Canada, according to the city website. As for crime, news about shootings is alarming, but the sensational headlines disguise the fact that in Toronto homicides are down, from 86 in 2007 to 69 in 2016 according to the Toronto Police Service.

But the facts of the case aren't the point here. It's how you have perceived them. I can't argue with how you feel, but since you wrote to me, I'll share where I'm coming from. My world view is shaped by being raised as a Christian. I'm no longer religious, but I still consider Jesus Christ's golden rule as the best rule to live by: Treat others as you would have them treat you.

Where you see "Third World immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and illegals" forming "ghettos in an effort to keep their culture alive and not integrate," I see normal folks sticking together out of a basic human need for companionship and safety. I don't believe anyone flees war, persecution, oppression or poverty because they want to live separate from and resented by people who've forgotten their own immigrant roots. I'm so proud of Toronto and Canada for the support we give to newcomers so they can rise up from their disadvantaged beginnings here, and contribute to a richer society for all of us. Our multicultural city, in my

view, is the true meaning of Christianity — in Technicolor.

I know how hard it is to accept people who are different. It can be frightening to see "normal" life in Canada disrupted by people who don't think or act like you, and who don't want to. And some of "them," just like some of "us," will inevitably represent the "worst elements of their previous cultures." But their presence here is also a wonderful opportunity for us to put our own standards of human decency to the test — and hope we measure up.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca



Ani Castillo

VICKY MOCHAMA



In Get Out, it's the little things that are frighteningly real

At a friend's wedding shower, a friend of the bride's mother greeted me with enthusiastic warmth.

"Hey! I haven't seen you in a while. How are things?"

We'd never met.

She had confused me for a new neighbour of hers. What did the new neighbour and I have in common? We are both black women.

I wasn't sure what to do except to laugh it off.

In *Get Out*, the recent Jordan Peele horror film, I saw the same instinct to laugh off racial incidents from Chris, the film's main character. Instead of a dramedy like *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, *Get Out* turns the idea of a black man meeting his white partner's parents into a thriller about the real and perceived danger of being the only black person in a predominantly white space.

There's a scene that surely reads differently depending on who you are.

Chris, a black photographer goes with his girlfriend, Rose, to meet her parents on their pastoral property in upstate New York. Her father takes Chris on a tour of the house.

For the untrained ear, it sounds like any house tour: A souvenir from Bali. A photo of his dad, who raced Jesse Owens. The maid. For me, the entire conversation sounded like, "Hey Chris, you're black. This is a new room, and by the way, you're black."

By pointing out his worldliness and adjacency to black people and black history, the

father is signalling his bonafides on race while at the same time reminding Chris that, as a black man, he is different. (Later, he will insist that he would have voted for Obama a third time if he could.)

The way the conversation subtly pivots to race is just one of the ways in which people who wouldn't consider themselves to be racist can come off as racist.

They may be well-intentioned, but it often feels like an effort to address race by subterfuge. Rather than actually say aloud "I noticed you're black," a lot of people will say a more general phrase like "My cousin's kid is doing a semester in Africa."

The movie has more overt moments of reminding Chris he's black.

I won't spoil it the house party scenes except to say that it's very hard to enjoy a glass of wine while older white folks talk about whether you're more of a caramel or a chocolate skin tone. Gulps, not sips, are required.

These seemingly innocuous incidents pile up yet they're hardly worth delivering a seminar on race to the offenders. Because of the semblance of innocence, it is hard to point to them as evidence.

That's the rub of racism in progressive places, especially dominantly white spaces. It is hard to put together the comments, questions and asides for other people in a way that spells out the racism.

The easier option is to get out.

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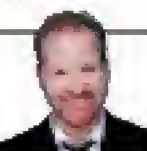


Comedian Naomi Snieckus's new podcast *Firecracker Department* will feature guests who can speak about the behind-the-scenes of the entertainment industry. Among those scheduled so far are: Jayne Eastwood, Annie Murphy, Bette Macdonald, and Debra McGrath. CONTRIBUTED

PODCAST

Naomi Snieckus interviews bright, loud, bold women

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Naomi Snieckus has accomplished much in Canadian showbiz. She has accrued Canadian Comedy Awards for improvisation and appeared in dozens of homegrown television shows (including her current role on CBC's *Mr. D*). But now the multi-talented actress has a new mission — propelling the term "firecracker lady" into the zeitgeist.

"A firecracker is someone who is unabashed, somebody who is unapologetic," explained Snieckus recently from Los Angeles. "They're bright and loud and bold and they're all the women that I talk to."

Energized by her colleagues in the male-dominated entertainment industry, Snieckus has created the podcast *Firecracker Department* with intent to spotlight the most intriguing women in entertainment by sharing a glass of good wine and even better conversation.

"This is new to me, this world of interviewing," admits Snieckus. "We're not sitting at a desk, our shoes are off — it's got a little bit more of a casual feel, (so) you have a glass of

wine and a cheese plate and you go, 'Oh, this is going to be a little bit different.'"

It's also not just putting the focus on the most famous female voices in 'the biz' either. Although Snieckus has certainly caught up with top talents like legendary character-actor Jayne Eastwood (*Hairspray*, TV's *SCTV*) and Annie Murphy (*Schitt's Creek*), she also aims to introduce audiences to unfamiliar writers, editors and other behind-the-scenes personalities.

"There's so much more in-depth discussion to have with these women," said Snieckus, who even plans to include her aspiring 9-year-old firecracker niece in a future episode. "I asked her what's her advice to women and she was like, 'Do what you want to do'. That's so great — she's such an inspiring little creature because she hasn't been told she can't do anything yet."

Firecracker Department premiered last week with episodes every Monday on iTunes and YouTube.

While Snieckus promises funny conversations that probe the "victories, embarrassments and vagaries of fame," she also hopes that women are stirred by the podcast as well. Indeed, under a still-new Trump presidency, women's rights feel as if they've stalled momentarily so inspiration may be more important than ever.

"If you've got something good to say, say it loudly," said Snieckus. "In general, intelligent people can't speak loud

DREAM GUESTS

Catherine O'Hara

The improv legend stars on TV's *Schitt's Creek*.

"If you look at (her) performances, she doesn't just rest at being a comedian," said Snieckus. "She finds depth in everything she does."



Carol Burnett

The comedy icon has been called "a bonafide feminist hero". "Folks (like her) have been around long enough to see what used to be and ridden the success of what it is now," said Snieckus.



Baroness Von Sketch

Canada's newest class clowns, the female quartet served up some of the nation's sharpest sketch comedy with their TV debut on CBC. "Those are all friends of mine from Second City and they're also at the first stages of their adventure in this," said Snieckus.



enough. Some people can't speak quiet enough, but in this case, I think more venues for women's voices is always essential."

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Disney embraces first 'gay moment'

EQUILITY

Beauty and the Beast scene is 'a wonderful step forward'

To be clear: Brokeback Mountain, this isn't.

The so-called "gay moment" in Disney's new live-action version of Beauty and the Beast is subtle — so subtle that one could easily miss it with an ill-timed sneeze or glance away from the screen. And it may sail over the heads of young viewers.

But the cast and director say it is indeed a gay moment — one they're proud of. And advocates are calling it a big step forward for Disney and for youth entertainment.

Mere word of it was also enough to lead one Alabama drive-in theatre to cancel plans to show the film — apparently without having seen it, because it doesn't open nationwide until March 17.

The scene in question involves the character of LeFou (Josh Gad),

the timid and lovable sidekick to the preening villain Gaston (Luke Evans). Without spoiling too much, it's safe to say that LeFou spends much of the film in Gaston's thrall, and toward the end also has a moment — a few seconds, really — where the same-sex theme is more overt.

At the film's Los Angeles premiere on Thursday evening, Gad said he was "very proud" of the scene.

"(Director) Bill Condon did an amazing job of giving us an opportunity to create a version of LeFou that isn't like the original ... but that makes him more human and makes him a wonderfully complex character to some extent," he said. "And there's a moment at the end of the film that I don't want to ruin ... because I want the surprise to be intact, but I'm very proud of it. I think it's an incredible moment and it's subtle, but I think it's effective."

Condon suggested that descriptions of LeFou as the first Disney gay character went too far. "I keep saying it's more like the first gay moment," he said. "Because I think it's a very fluid



Josh Gad as LeFou, left alongside Luke Evans's Gaston, said he was 'very proud' of the Beauty and the Beast scene being labelled as Disney's first 'gay moment'. LAURIE SPARHAM/DISNEY/AP

character." The director added: "You can't help but wonder in his adoration of Gaston ... (is there) something more going on?"

The length of the scene — or scenes, since LeFou's fluid orien-

tation is hinted at elsewhere — is not what's important, said Sarah Kate Ellis, president of GLAAD, the LGBTQ media advocacy group.

"It's a wonderful step forward," she said. "And this is incredibly important for the youth of today. They need to see themselves reflected in the media they consume. More and more, as studios want to appeal

to youth audiences, they're going to have to include LGBTQ story lines and characters."

Ellis noted that in the annual survey that GLAAD puts together on LGBTQ inclusion in movies, "we have struggled year after year to find any content in major studio films. We're usually the punching bag or the laughing-stock. So this is an enormous step forward for us."

In the past, many have speculated on what they see as "coded" gay characters, or winking references to gay characters or themes in Disney and other youth-oriented films. Ellis said the difference here is that "we're moving from coded, where you have to put together the pieces, to this being in the spotlight ... It shows the direction America is moving in."

Evans said the scene in question was "about unity. It's about never judging a book by its cover, but digging a little deeper and understanding to not be fearful of things you don't know, people that are a little different to you. Fear is not a good thing to fuel."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Years of formula, and yet we're still satisfied

THE SHOW: The Bachelor, Season 21, Episode 10 (City/ABC)
THE MOMENT: "I've never had an orgasm"

Raven, a boutique owner in Arkansas, is dining by candlelight with bachelor Nick in Lapland, Finland. He's wearing a woolly turtleneck. Her red sweater keeps falling off her shoulders.

"My dad always told me he prayed I'd have an easy love,"



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Raven says. "Every step of the way you've made it so easy for me to love you." Nick leans in and kisses her.

They agree to use the Fantasy Suite — i.e., have sex. "I need to tell you something," Raven says. "My ex, the only person I've had sex with, never gave me an orgasm." Nick gulps.

Later, host Chris Harrison

shills for next week: "Will Raven's date come to a satisfying end? And in The Women Tell All, it's round two of Taylor vs. Corinne."

And there you have the tripartite Bachelor formula. One part True Love: Raven's dad story is sweet. We sigh, hoping maybe this is real.

One part Titillation: In a to-

camera interview, Raven makes an excellent point. "It's taboo to discuss" orgasms, she says, "but it's important." Yes it is, sister. But to make sure this show doesn't get too pro-woman, the producers hype up this o-talk before and after each commercial break.

And finally, we get part three of the formula: Catfight!

This show has survived 21 seasons, plus spin-offs, plus a cynical exposé, UnReal. And yet it chugs along, because if it ain't broke...

To paraphrase a toast Homer Simpson once gave about alcohol: "To love. The solution to, and cause of, all life's problems."

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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When David Lindo-Reid was a university student in his native home of Kingston, Jamaica, his mom would joke: "Well, he majors in extra-curricular activities."

That's because his main focus at that time wasn't his full-time academic stream, management, but rather his true passion in life — the performing arts.

"All I did was sing, act and dance," laughs Lindo-Reid, who is now in the ensemble for *Sousatzka*, a Broadway-bound musical currently playing in Toronto.

Sousatzka tells the story of a South African family who fled apartheid to settle in London, England, set in 1982. Producer Garth Drabinsky describes it as "a musical about God-given genius, the sacrificial journey of refugees and the ultimate redemption of the human spirit to begin again." That theme is one Lindo-Reid connects with.

He left Jamaica in 2013, marrying his Canadian partner in New York City before moving to Canada at the end of that summer.

"I knew that I couldn't foresee a future being an openly gay person in Jamaica," says Lindo-Reid.

While he recognizes the



David Lindo-Reid is currently performing in the ensemble of Broadway-bound musical *Sousatzka*. COURTESY BRAYDEN SWIRE

LGBTQ community is making progress in that country now, there was another reason he wanted to move: his ambition to turn his musical theatre passion into a career. It wasn't easy.

After getting accepted into the Sheridan College honours bachelor of musical theatre performance program, Lindo-Reid and his husband moved to Oakville, Ont. three days before orientation was to begin.

"We didn't have a lot of money. We literally grabbed the first place that we found once we arrived," he recalls.

Once he was able to work in Canada, he took on three jobs: "I was a server at Kelsey's; I was housekeeping at the residence at school; and I was teaching dance part-time at one of my friend's

performance companies."

The gruelling grind eventually paid off. When he found out *Sousatzka* was choreographed by one of his icons, Graciela Daniele, he knew he couldn't pass up the chance to audition.

Now, he is set to graduate from Sheridan with his class, while working closely with the Tony-decorated cast and crew.

Although his schedule is still packed — he performs eight shows a week, has three days of rehearsal and goes to class on Mondays — it's worth it as he works towards his goals.

"I would love to go back to Jamaica at some point and really contribute as much as I can to young people who have a talent and want to get into musical theatre or performance."



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WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Jeremy Watt, 34, Julie Brown, 33,
co-founders online clothing and lifestyle
brand Province of Canada, Toronto.

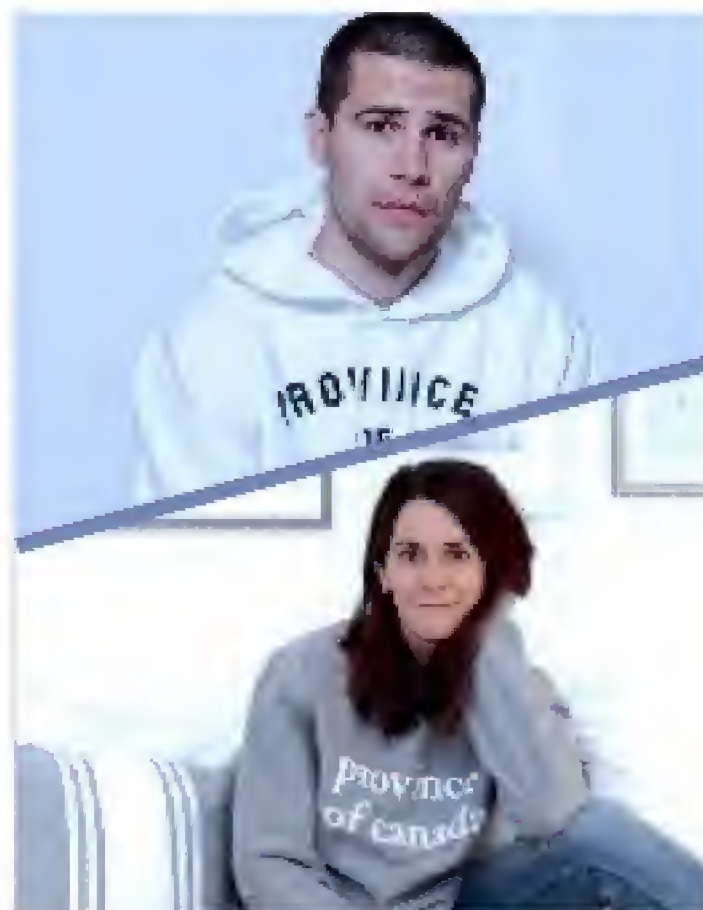
Watt: We originally studied graphic design — Julie went to college in Montreal, and I went to college in Toronto. We had various creative jobs throughout our careers, but we wanted to follow our passion and start our own brand. When Julie was working at Toronto retailer Au Lit Fine Linens as their creative director, we helped get them online. From that project, we decided to open our own business. Because we're both so passionate about fashion, we launched the clothing line Province of Canada. On a day to day, we could be editing photos that go onto the websites, to literally shipping the orders that come in.

Brown: A lot of our website traffic comes from social media, so we spend a lot of time curating our Instagram and social feeds. We also spend a lot of time designing our line for next season, working with the manufacturers who actually make the clothes and emailing customers.

Watt: Every day consists of a little bit of everything. On a more conceptual level, when there's just two of you, it's a mix of dreaming big in an entrepreneurial sense but also getting your hands dirty with these mundane tasks like packing orders.

Brown: I've spoken to a lot of people who run their own business, and some have business degrees and some don't, and a lot of what I hear is that what we're doing right now is our hands-on degree. You learn the most when you're doing it. No one can teach you experience.

Watt: For the TTC rider on a Monday morning think-



ing "I want to start my own business but have to go back to school," I would say 100 per cent you don't. It's worth the risk. I love the freedom to make my own decisions. It's super fulfilling to flap our own wings and see that what we're creating has value.

Brown: It's also really fulfilling to develop any product we want and to see our designs be successful.

THE BASICS: Online merchant

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Starting salary for a small business owner, though successful small businesses can pull in upwards of six figures or more.

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Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, onetonline.org and Ontariocolleges.ca.

HOW TO START

People looking to launch their own small businesses online don't have to go to school for a business degree.

Many opt to start their own digital storefronts as a side business or a hobby, and learn their skills along the way, while others dive in head-first and learn through trial-by-error.

Those looking to go to school to further their education can pursue two- or four-year business degrees or diplomas, MBAs or even small business post-graduate certificates. Schools across the country offer these programs, and students will often learn a mix of learning of economics, accounting, marketing best practices and other foundational knowledge to starting a business.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

There are a number of platforms that let people sell their products online, such as Etsy or Ottawa's Shopify. The nature of online selling means people can pretty much work from any city in the country. The big requirements, of course, for setting up your own digital store, are a reliable internet connection and access to easy shipping.

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Canada's Cyle Larin scored the first-ever goal at Orlando City Stadium in Sunday's 1-0 win over New York City FC

Casey tries his hand with Saskatchewan

BRIER

Skip becoming a nomad at nationals

Adam Casey has enjoyed a rather nomadic Tim Hortons Brier experience since making his debut at the national men's curling championship five years ago.

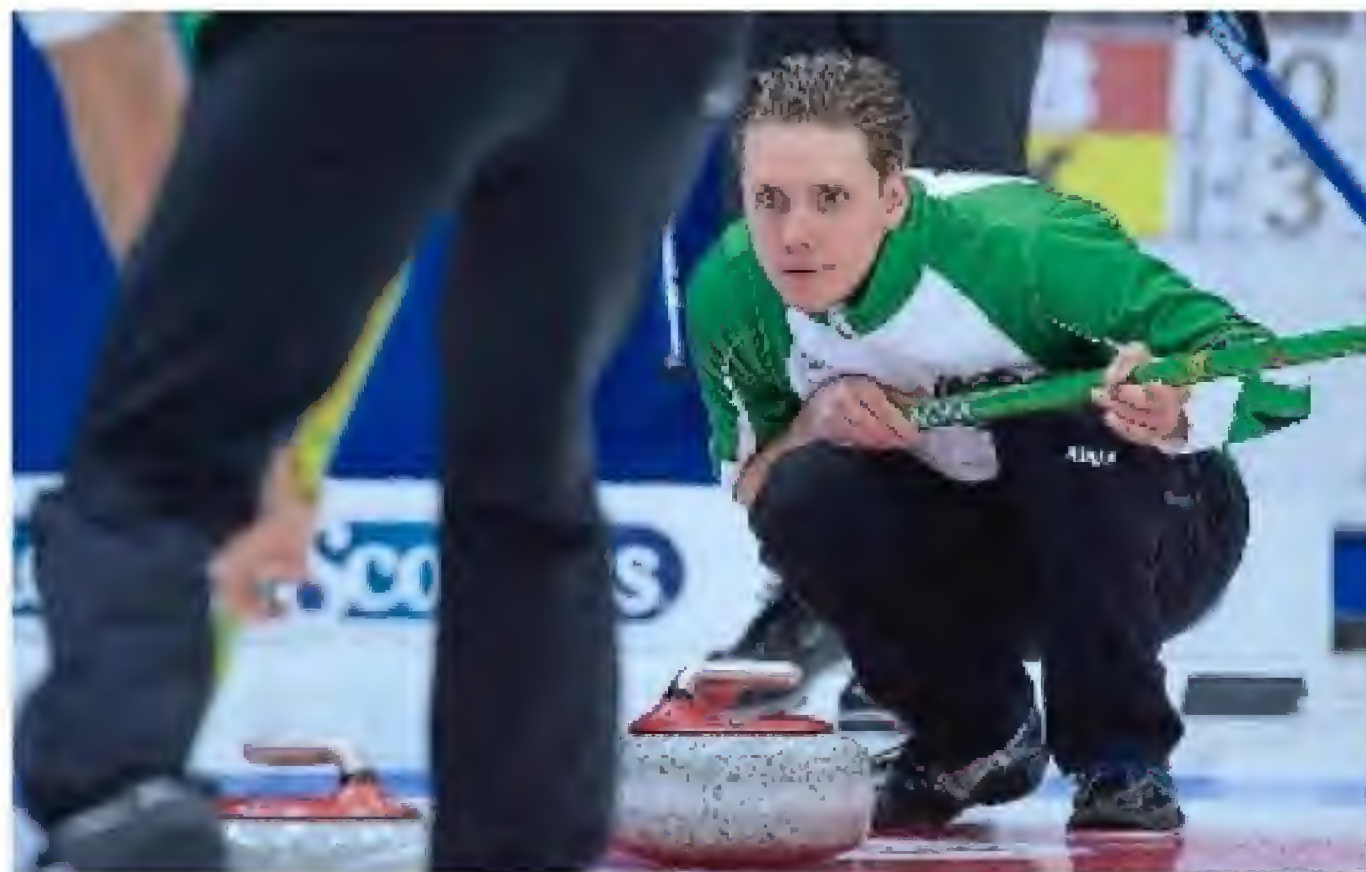
He made three appearances with Brad Gushue's team from Newfoundland and Labrador before skipping his own rink out of Prince Edward Island the last two years. Now Casey is back at the Brier with Saskatchewan, becoming just the fifth player to win purple hearts with three different provinces or territories.

"I think ideally you'd stay with the same group of guys and you'd get to know every little intricacy about them," Casey said Sunday. "But I think that's not always a reality. You always have that search for the right fit."

Casey and Brier rookies Catlin Schneider, Shaun Meachem and Dustin Kidby are off to a good start at this year's competition with two wins in their first three games.

They dropped a 6-5 decision to Manitoba's Mike McEwen in their opener before rebounding Sunday with an 11-5 win over Alberta's Brendan Bottcher and an 8-3 victory over Jamie Koe of the Northwest Territories.

McEwen and Canada's Kevin



Saskatchewan is 2-1 behind skip Adam Casey. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Koe lead the round-robin standings at 3-0. McEwen beat Gushue 8-4 on Sunday morning and then the Northwest Territories 6-2 at night. Kevin Koe topped Brad Jacobs of Northern Ontario 6-4 before using his last rock to beat Glenn Howard and Ontario 5-4.

Gushue, Jacobs, Casey and Nova Scotia's Jamie Murphy are tied in third place at 2-1.

Casey, a 27-year-old industrial process specialist, won a Canadian junior title in 2009 on a P.E.I. team skipped by Brett Gallant, now a second with Gushue.

Casey played with a different rink while he studied in Halifax but they didn't get out of Nova Scotia playdowns. He joined Gushue in 2011 and made his first Brier appearance the following year in Saskatoon.

He left the St. John's-based team in 2014 and was replaced by the returning Mark Nichols. Casey's P.E.I. team then went its separate ways last spring.

Settled and happy in Charlottetown but still wanting to play on an elite team, Casey reached out to a few players at

the time but there were no vacancies. He soon heard from a Saskatchewan team looking for an experienced player.

"Shaun and Catlin gave me a call and I honestly didn't know who they were," Casey said. "I'm not lying when I said 'Who the hell is Shaun Meachem?' when I got off the phone. But he sounded like he was talking a good game."

"So I Googled him and they had a way better season than we did last year so they can't be half bad." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weekend recap



Above: Blake Wheeler and Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and pair of assists each as Winnipeg topped Colorado 6-1 Saturday night. Patrik Laine scored his rookie-leading 32nd goal and Connor Hellebuyck came within 15.4 seconds of earning a second straight shutout as the Jets improved to 5-1-2 in their last eight games.

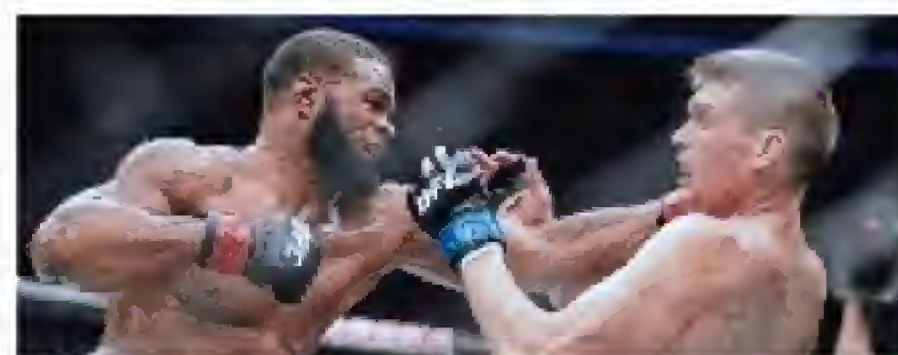
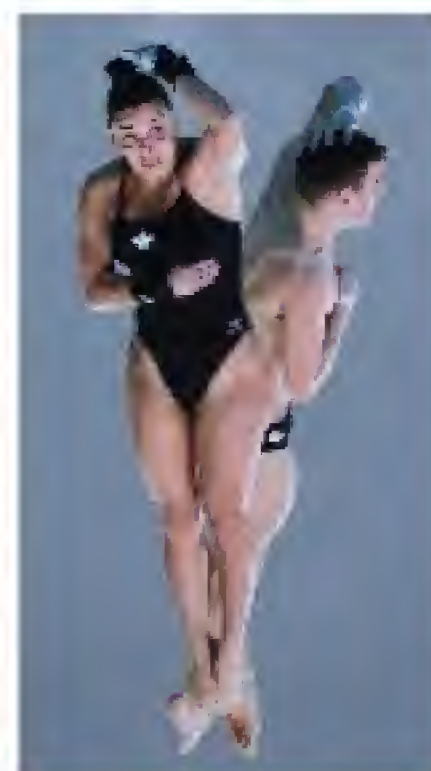
JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Right: Canada's Meaghan Benfeito and Vincent Riendeau closed out the season-opening diving World Series with a bronze medal in mixed synchro 10-metre platform on Sunday in Beijing.

LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES

Below: Tyrone Woodley retained his 170-pound title with a lacklustre majority decision over Stephen Thompson in a defensive-minded main event at UFC 209 on Saturday night in Las Vegas.

JOHN LOCHER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Russian lawmaker pitches hooliganism as a sport

A Russian lawmaker has proposed an unorthodox solution to the country's problems with soccer hooliganism ahead of next year's World Cup — legalize it and make it a spectator sport.

Igor Lebedev, who sits in the Russian parliament, has drawn up rules for organized brawls — 20 fighters on each side, unarmed — that "could turn fans' aggression in a peaceful direction."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnson plays up to ranking

Dustin Johnson survived a few anxious moments on the back nine by playing mistake-free when it mattered to win the Mexico Championship in his debut as the No. 1 player in the world.

Johnson blasted out of a fairway bunker to the middle of the 18th green to secure a two-putt par for a 3-under 68 and a one-shot victory over Tommy Fleetwood of England.

Johnson became the fifth player to win in his debut at No. 1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SKI CROSS

Thompson, Leman win on home snow

Marielle Thompson found herself in an unfamiliar position in Sunday's ski cross final — in second spot after winning her previous three heats in wire-to-wire victories.

But the most consistent ski cross racer on the planet simply bided her time as if she was stalking prey, and when she zoomed past Sandra Naeslund of Sweden halfway down the hill, a roar went up from the crowd at Blue Mountain Resort.

Thompson capped her thoroughly dominant World Cup season with her seventh



Marielle Thompson and Brady Leman GETTY IMAGES

victory, and was presented with her third Crystal Globe as the season's overall champion.

"I think any time I'm behind in a heat I just sit and try to be patient," the 24-year-old from

Whistler, B.C., said. "I know there's that big long straightaway at the end and I just needed to wait for my chance and I'm glad it worked out in the end."

Canada finished 1-2 in the men's final with Brady Leman winning gold and Chris Del Bosco claiming silver.

Canada was presented with the Nation's Cup as the top team on the season.

Leman, a 30-year-old from Calgary, was quick out of the gate and never trailed in any of Sunday's four rounds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IN FINLAND

Harvey wins cross-country gold medal at worlds

Alex Harvey won the men's 50-kilometre freestyle cross-country ski race at the Nordic world championships Sunday.

Harvey, of St. Ferreol, Que., timed his final attack perfectly, taking the lead on the last corner and holding off Russian Sergei Ustyugov in the final sprint.

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Comforting Slow Cooker Chicken Stew



PHOTO: MAYA VISHNEV

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We're sad to say, it's not spring yet so you're still going to need some warming, rib-sticking dinners like this easy-peasy chicken dinner.

Ready in 6 hours 10 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 6 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 6 chicken thighs
- 1 potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme (1 tsp dried)
- 1 or 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 1/2 cup light cream

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven or high-sided skillet, sauté onions, celery and carrots in splash of vegetable oil for about five minutes.

2. Add flour, thyme and bay leaves and stir for a minute. Add stock and stir until smooth. Simmer for 3 or 4 minutes until sauce thickens.

3. Add the potatoes and a good pinch of salt and pepper.

4. Place chicken thighs in the bottom of slow cooker and spoon the vegetable mixture over. Seal and set for 6 hours.

5. Add peas and cream and cook for 10 more minutes. Serve plain or over mashed potatoes.

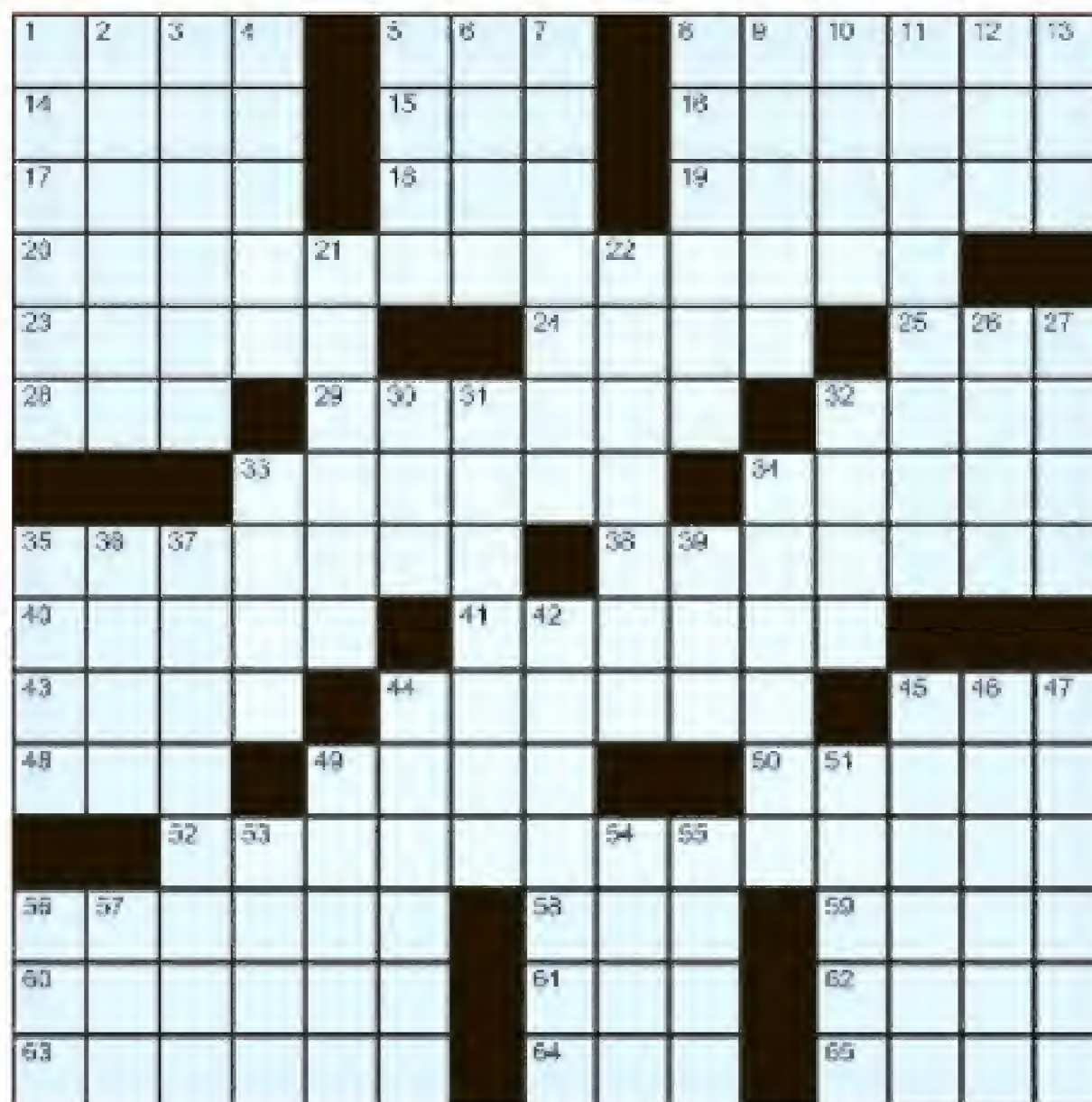
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Telecommunications speed unit
- Unpaired
- Canadian pilot Billy Bishop (b.1894 - d.1956), for one: 2 wds.
- 'Height'-meaning prefix
- Masses, with Polloi
- Like a widely recognized symbol
- Lettered frozen dessert chain
- Possibilities
- Yellow-bordered mag since 1888: 2 wds.
- 1847: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic 'Evangeline' poem: 4 wds.
- Building extension
- Delivery vehicles
- Dustup
- San Francisco's _ Valley
- Futuristic cards
- Climbing plant's one-of-some
- Fame
- Vivian of 'I Love Lucy'
- Word's opposite meaning word
- Got even
- Bible king
- Have ambitions
- The Phantom's name in Gaston Leroux's classic novel The Phantom of the Opera
- Socially belongs: 2 wds.
- Wine classification, Grand _
- Broom alternative
- Adjust the dial



- Greyish
- Ontario's provincial flower: 2 wds.
- Pauley Perrette's character on 'NCIS', Abby _
- Triste
- Sky bear
- Harvey of 'The Carol Burnett Show'

- Lacto- (Vegetarian type)
- Accelerated in the auto
- Leafy salad ingredients
- '_' for Newfoundland
- London, England's _ Park

DOWN

- WWII battleground Peninsula in the Philippines
- Identifying info on a bank statement, for short: 2 wds.
- Refined
- Writer, Sir Arthur

- Conan _ (b.1859 - d.1930)
- Columbus, _
- Politely tip one's hat
- Gospel singer CeCe
- Training institutes, for short

- _ de boeuf
- Making mad
- Business: Co., in French
- Umberto _ (Foucault's Pendulum author)
- Stretch
- Short snoozes
- As soon as
- Unwanted plant
- 'Pick a card, _ card.'
- Caesar Salad ingredient
- Barn pointer
- Chess piece
- _ equinox
- 'Cough...'
- Pianist/conductor, Peter _
- Hidden trap activator: 2 wds.
- Gladiator's lucky number
- Rancher's hat
- Sofas-turned-beds
- What the happily-making-noise bird is
- Practiced eco-friendliness
- Bed, upon rising
- Tennessee football player
- Partially frozen colourful drink
- Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn
- Sitarist, _ Shankar
- Wedding vows: 2 wds.
- Film studio, Dream-Works _
- _ anglais (English horn)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a great day to research anything or dig for answers. You will not stop until you find what you're looking for.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Enjoy all your relationships with friends and members of groups today, because people are upbeat and glad to see you. Share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone to get his or her feedback.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You are high-viz now, with the Sun high in your chart. This also means you look good to bosses and VIPs, which is why you should make your pitch. Ask for what you want.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Make travel plans or do anything that will expand your life experience today, because you want to learn more and feel adventurous. What can you do?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Discussions about shared property, taxes, debt and insurance issues will go well. This includes anything to do with inheritances and the wealth of your partner.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a strong day for a heart-to-heart discussion with a partner or close friend. People are ready to meet you halfway, and vice versa.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Think of ways that you can get better organized both at home and at work. Not only will you be happy to be better organized, you also will want to do something to improve your health.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a playful, fun-loving creative day for you. Enjoy sports events, activities with children, the arts and all social diversions.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A conversation with a parent could be significant today. In either case, you will focus on home, family and your private life.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Listen to yourself today. Make a point of being clear in all your communications with others. People want to hear what you have to say.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are giving thought to cash flow, earnings and your assets today. That's because you're giving yourself a report card that is based on earnings and wealth.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
All your dealings with others today will be quite successful, because you are coming from a strong space. Your confidence is obvious, which is why others will listen to you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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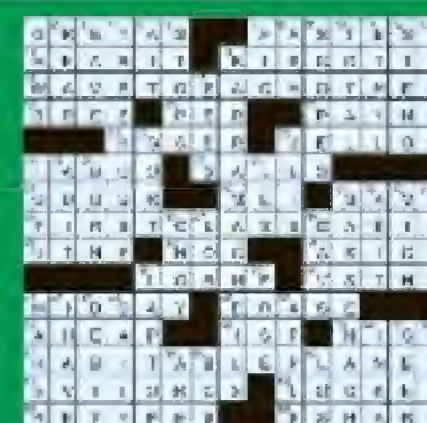
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